

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-41. (Canceled).

42. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush, comprising:

a brushhead portion having a bristle section in the vicinity of one end thereof;

a handle portion, with a driver assembly therein for driving the bristle section, wherein the brushhead portion and the handle portion are adapted such that the brushhead portion is removable from the handle portion;

communication means for data communication between the brushhead portion and the handle portion when the brushhead portion and handle portion are joined together;

a memory element in the brushhead portion for storing at least data which identifies the brushhead portion; and

a microcontroller in the handle portion, wherein the memory element in the brushhead portion provides information therein to the microcontroller via the communication means.

43. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush of claim 42, wherein the microcontroller in operation accumulates information concerning use of the brushhead, and wherein the ~~apparatus~~ toothbrush includes means for reading information in the memory element in the brushhead to the microcontroller.

44. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush of claim 42, wherein said information indicates properties of the brushhead.

45. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush of claim 42, wherein said information indicates operating parameters of the toothbrush for the brushhead.

46. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush of claim 42, wherein the information is used to monitor use of the toothbrush.

47. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush of claim 42, wherein the toothbrush will not operate unless the information from the memory element is valid, as determined by the microcontroller.

48. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush of claim 42, including means for displaying selected information related to the brushhead.

49. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush of claim 42, further including a device for providing operating information to define particular operations of the brushhead.

50. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush of claim 42, wherein the communication means comprise wireless components.

51. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush of claim [48] 50, wherein the wireless components include coils on the brushhead and the handle for inductive communication.

52. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush of claim 42, wherein the microcontroller includes means for evaluating the time of past uses of the brushhead.

53. (Previously Presented) A brushhead portion of a toothbrush, the toothbrush including a handle portion to which the brushhead portion can be joined comprising:

a brushhead assembly which includes a bristle section, the brushhead assembly adapted to be removable from the handle portion of the toothbrush;

communication means for data communication between the brushhead assembly and a separate device; and

a memory element in the brushhead assembly for storing data identifying the brushhead assembly.

54. (Previously Presented) A brushhead of claim 53, wherein said separate device is the handle portion of the toothbrush.

55. (Previously Presented) A brushhead of claim 53, wherein the communication means includes means for data communication with the handle portion when the brushhead assembly and the handle are joined together.

56. (Previously Presented) A brushhead of claim 52, wherein said data indicates operating parameters of the toothbrush for the brushhead.

57. (Previously Presented) A brushhead of claim 52, wherein the communication means includes electrically conductive elements.

58. (Previously Presented) A brushhead of claim 53, wherein the communication means comprises wireless components.

59. (Currently Amended) A brushhead of claim [56] 58, wherein the wireless components include coils for inductive communication.